TRUE GREATNESS.

A DISCOURSE

DELIVERED AT

ZANESVILLE, OHIO, APRIL 19th, 1865,

ON THE OCCASION OF THE DEATH OF

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

BY REV. D. D. MATHER,
OF THE OHIO CONFERENCE

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1865.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ZANESVILLE, April 19, 1865.

Rev. D. D. Mather,

DEAR SIR:—At the request of numerous citizens, and our own wishes corresponding, we very respectfully request that you grant us the privilege of publishing the Sermon, or Address, delivered by you to-day.

Very truly and cordially yours,

SAM'L. A. GILBERT,
CHAS. C. RUSSELL,
In behalf of the Committee.

ZANESVILLE, April 19, 1865.

Col. Sam'l. A. Gilbert, and Chas. C. Russell, Esq.,

GENTLEMEN:—Your note requesting the privilege of publishing the Sermon delivered by me this day, is received. And while I am confident that it has many imperfections, I comply with your request.

Very truly and obediently, yours,

D. D. MATHER.

THE

FUNERAL OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

OBSEQUIES IN ZANESVILLE.

On Wednesday the 19th of April, at noon, the citizens of Zanesville and vicinity, to the number of ten or twelve thousand collected upon Main Street, and at about 1 o'clock, a procession having been formed of military and civil organizations, and of citizens generally, the immense throng moved to the west side of the river where a tastefully decorated and commodious stand had been provided for the accommodation of the speakers, singers, and officers of the meeting. There had also been comfortable seats provided for four or five thousand people, but about half that number, who had preceeded the procession, with the selfishness that usually characterizes people in crowded assemblies in their eagerness to get the best places, crowded, walked, and stood upon the seats, so that most of them were demolished before the proceedings commenced.

The procession reached the stand about half past 1 o'clock, and after a few moments spent by the marshals and military in an almost fruitless effort to get the people to sit down, put down their umbrellas, and parasols, and otherwise dispose themselves for the greatest good of the greatest number; the proceedings were commenced by the presiding officer's announcement of the programme. In accordance with which Rev. John M. Leavitt, of St James church, delivered in the most solemn and impressive manner the following eloquent and appropriate prayer:

"O God, the Father of Heaven," we adore Thee! "O, God, the Son, the Redeemer of the world," we adore Thee! "O God, the Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father, and the Son," we adore Thee! "O, holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three persons, and one God" we adore Thee! Thou art the Creator of Heaven and Earth. Thou rulest the nations. "Clouds, and darkness are about thee; righteousness and judgment are the habitation of thy Throne." Thou

did'st lead our fathers to these shores. Thou did'st give us Washington. Thou did'st guide us through the tempest of the Revolution. Thou did'st shape our glorious Constitution and our noble institutions. Thou hast led the nations to our Republic. Amid the struggles of Treason, marked by the blood of battle, and the graves of martyrs, and the tears of our country. Thou did'st sustain our lamented President, enabling him to create armies and navies, to unite parties, to devise policies, until he saw the power of slavery forever broken and that banner which waved over Washington, float above the very capital of the rebellion. We thank Thee, O Lord, the author of these blessings! We recognize Thy wisdom and Thy love, even while mourning the assassin's stroke which has made a martyr to Liberty, vailed a nation with gloom, and will startle a world with horror; O, God, bring light from darkness and life from death. Make the blood of our President a blessing to his country! We beseech Thee, reveal the authors of this crime! Be they lowest or highest, drag them to the sun, that they be made a sacrifice to justice, and a spectacle to the world! We pray Thee "comfort the widow and the fatherless." Bless the sick, the wounded, the captive, the dying! Be with the President of the United States, "and all others in authority," shielding them by Thy power and guiding them by Thy wisdom! Lead our armies and our navies! Sanctify our people! Grant that trial may so purify our Republic, that it may perform its mission of spreading liberty, and knowledge, and Thy gospel, over the world! Level the mountain! Exalt the valley! Make the crooked straight and the rough plain, until all flesh beholds Thy glory! We ask "in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with Thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor, and glory, world without end! Amen!"

This was followed by that beautiful hymn, "I would not live always," sung by a choir of nearly an hundred voices, belonging to the choirs of the different churches of Zanesville, and Putnam, under the leadership of Prof. Strachauer.

I would not live alway: I ask not to stay,
Where storm after storm rises dark o'er the way;
The few lurid mornings that dawn on us here,
Are enough for life's woes, full enough for its cheer.

I would not live alway, thus fettered by sin,
Temptation without and corruption within:
E'en the rapture of pardon is mingled with fears,
And the cup of thanksgiving with penitent tears.

I would not live always; no — welcome the tomb,
Since Jesus has lain there, I dread not its gloom;
There, sweet be my rest, till He bid me arise,
To hail Him in triumph descending the skies.

Who, who would live always away from his God;
Away from yon heaven, that blissful abode,
Where the rivers of pleasure flow o'er the bright plains,
And the noontide of glory eternally reigns.

The Rev. J. B. SHARP, of the First Baptist Church, the nread the following passages of scripture:

Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou *art* God.

Thou turnest man to destruction; and sayest return, ye children of men.

For a thousand years in thy sight *are* but as yesterday when it is past, and *as* a watch in the night.

Thou carriest them away as with a flood; they are *as* a sleep: in the morning *they are* like a grass *which* groweth up.

In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down, and withereth.

For we are consumed by thine anger, and by thy wrath we are troubled.

Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret *sins* in the light of thy countenance.—PSALMS 90; 1—8.

"After all this, when Josiah had prepared the temple, Necho, king of Egypt, came up to fight against Charchemish by Euphrates; and Josiah went out against him.

But he sent ambassadors to him, saying, What have I to do with thee, thou king of Judah? *I come* not against thee this day, but against the house wherewith I have war: for God commanded me to make haste: forbear thee from *meddling with* God, who *is* with me that he destroyeth thee not.

Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself, that he might fight with him, and hearkened not unto the words of Necho from the mouth of God, and came to fight in the valley of Megiddo.

And the archers shot at king Josiah; and the king said to his servants, Have me away; for I am sore wounded.

His servants therefore took him out of that chariot, and put him in the second chariot that he had; and they brought him to Jerusalem and he died, and was burried in *one of* the sepulcres of his fathers. And all Judea and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.

And Jeremiah lamented for Josiah; all the singing men and the singing women spake of Josiah in their lamentations to this day, and made them an ordinance in Israel, and behold they *are* written in the lamentations.

Now the rest of the acts of Josiah, and his goodness, according to *that which was* written in the law of the Lord.

And his deeds, first and last, behold, they *are* written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah.—2d *Chronicle* 35; 20—27.

While I live I will praise the Lord; I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.

Put not your trust in princes, *nor* in the son of man, in whom *there is* no help.

His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.

Happy *is he* that *hath* the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God.

Which made heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that therein *is:* which keepeth truth forever.

Which executeth judgement for the oppressed which giveth food to the hungry. The Lord looseth the prisoners.

The Lord openeth *the eyes* of the blind; The Lord raiseth them that are bowed down: the Lord loveth the righteous.

The Lord preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow: but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down.

The Lord shall reign forever, *even* thy God O Zion, unto all generations. Praise ye the Lord.—*Psalms* 146; 2—10.

The choirs then sang in most delightful style, the following appropriate hymn:

Thou art gone to the grave, but we will not deplore thee;
Though sorrow and darkness encompass the tomb,
The Savior has passed through it portals before thee,
And the lamp of His love is thy guide through the gloom,
And the lamp of His love is thy guide through the gloom.

Thou art gone to the grave, we no longer deplore thee,
Nor tread the rough path of the world by thy side;
But the wide arms of mercy are spread to enfold thee,
And sinners may hope, since the Savior hath died,
And sinners may hope, since the Savior hath died.

Thou art gone to the grave, and its mansions forsaking,
Perhaps thy tired spirit in doubt lingered long;
But the sunshine of heaven beamed bright on thy waking,
And the song that thou heardst, was the seraphim's song,
And the song that thou heardst, was the seraphim's song.

Thou art gone to the grave, but 'twere wrong to deplore thee,
When God was thy ransom; thy guardian and guide;
He gave thee, and took thee, and soon will restore thee,
Where death hath no sting, since the Savior hath died,
Where death hath no sting, since the Savior hath died.

After which the presiding officers addressed a few words to the audience, urging them to put down their umbrellaas, and parasols, so that all might have an equal chance of seeing and hearing.

But the bright sunlight was in their faces and but a few of the "fair ones" were disposed to be fair towards their fellow citizens in war. The proceedings were continued by the Rev. D. D. Mather Presiding elder of this district, delivering the discourse which is as follows:

"KNOW YE NOT THAT THERE IS A PRINCE AND GREAT MAN FALLEN THIS DAY IN ISRAEL."—2 SAMUEL—3 CHAP. 38 VERSE.

CHRISTIAN CITIZENS:—We are assembled to commemorate one of the most afflictive dispensations with which an allwise and inscrutible Providence has visited us, from the organization of the government down to the present time. We have come to mingle our sympathies and devotions with those of our fellow-citizens throughout the land, in the recollection of the solemn and unwelcome truth that the President of this mighty republic has fallen.

Abraham Lincoln is no more. The mighty, the prince, the just, the wise, the guardian of liberty, the protector of the oppressed, the patriot, the martyr, is no more. From the waters of the St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico, and from the shores of the Atlantic to the Pacific; what a sublime moral spectacle is this day presented to the contemplation of the whole civilized world. And may we not, confidently add that it is one upon which God himself condescends to look down with approbation and complacency. The spectacle to which we refer is not an empty pageant, or a mere mockery of grief, reluctantly displayed by a nation of slaves, upon the loss of one who has basely trampled their liberties in the dust and ruled them with a rod of iron; but it is the spontaneous outpouring by multiplied millions of freemen, of their deep and heartfelt sorrow for the loss of one whom they have twice delighted to elevate to the highest office in their gift. With a noble forgetfulness of all party distinctions, persons of every creed, both civil and religious, unite together with the utmost cordiality and promptitude in testifying their profound respect for the memory of the departed HERO, STATESMAN and PATRIOT. Every subordinate consideration is merged in the sad and overwhelming remembrance that, in the person of our chief magistrate, the whole country has been suddenly bereft of one of its greatest benefactors.

What an impressive lesson does this mournful occurrence afford to every reflecting mind, upon the mutation of all that is earthly—the transitory, and the unsubstantial nature of the highest honors that any human power is capable of bestowing. The death of such a man, at such a TIME, and in such a MANNER, and occupying, as he did, the most prominent and important position known to our federal constitution, may well be regarded as a great national calamity. The announcement of the text, made in Judea more than three thousand years ago, may appropriately be made now, that our chief magistrate is fallen—suddenly fallen by the hand of the cruel assassin; and everywhere, as the tidings spread, the involved sentiment has met a ready response, and has been echoed back in solemn tones. "A great man is fallen!" I adopt the language of the text as a suitable and striking introduction to a discourse, on the character, public services and death of this great man who has thus fallen. With this view, I must detain you a little while with the definitions of terms, and occupy few a moments in showing what are the elements of greatness in human character—what constitutes "a great man." Clearly, all that is sometimes called great is not truly great. Greatness in man, evidently does not depend on position in society, on place and power, on office and rank, on pedi-

gree and primogeniture, on the ten thousand nominal and factitious distinctions which have been arbitrarily made in society. For the most elevated rank, and the most honorable titles, are often assumed by men of the lowest minds and vilest character; and not unfrequently the highest civil offices are conferred on the weak and wicked. In hereditary governments, the chances are, at least equal, that this will be the fact: whenever an heir-apparent ascends the throne, because he ascends, of course, without regard to character or qualifications; and even in elective states, want of judgment in the electors, deceptions practiced by selfish aspirants, and the blinding influence of party spirit, too often produce the same results. Thus the high places of civil society are sometimes filled with men of little minds, and destitue of all moral and religious principles, and the ultimate consequence is, that the wicked walk on every side, when the vilest men are thus exalted. Then, vice and iniquity every where abound, drawing down upon the country, the judgments of Heaven. Nor will the possession and development of some one high quality alone, make a great man, A man may be a great mathematician, a great poet, a great general, or a great politician, and yet be destitute of that which is absolutely necessary to constitute a great man. Yes, even the best moral qualities may be seen in connection with much intellectual deficiency; such weakness of judgment, wildness of imagination, or instability of purpose in a man as to forbid the application of the epithet GREAT to him as a man; however, charity may wink at his errors, smile at his foibles, pity his misfortune, and yet praise him for his good intentions.

But we may remark positively, that great intellectual faculties, and high moral powers fully developed, properly directed and actively employed are all requisite to make a truly great man. Or to express the same thing in different language, we may say, a great man must possess at once, symmetry and elevation of character. His original powers of mind and susceptibilities of heart, must be of a high order, cultivated with care, drawn out and kept in such just proportion and steady equilibrium, as to produce a finished character,—firm and elevated, beautiful and sublime. Or better still, perhaps, we may say, a great man must show his greatness by standing on high ground, where his light may be seen; and by there exhibiting those excellencies which are involved in a faithful and dilligent discharge of the duties growing out of all the relations of life and immortality. He must therefore be a man of firmness of purpose and decision of character; of self-possession, self-culture,

and self-control, and all these qualities he must possess in a measure as not only to secure his own happiness, but to be able most effectually to promote the happiness of others — of all others who are dependent on him and connected with him. He must be prepared to discharge faithfully and successfully all the duties which his social and civil relations impose upon him — prepared for the service of his country and generation, especially for the service of his God and the enjoyment of his favor forever. Hence, though there may be degrees of greatness in character, and of course different classes of great men, yet the number of those who are truly eminent and are entitled to this high distinction, is in every age and country, comparatively small, especially, let it be remembered, that the religious element is indispensible to constitute greatness of character in man. All other powers and qualities, however exalted and apportioned, will fail to produce true greatness, without the combining and controlling influence of this high quality. To render them subservient to the purpose for which they were bestowed, or even to secure their salutary tendency, they must be sanctified by religious sentiment, and exercised and employed under the direction of religious principle. This element of greatness in character, has indeed been generally overlooked or forgotten. Hence talents of the most brilliant order have been wasted; genius permitted to run wild and scatter abroad the seeds of death, and knowledge, though extensive and powerful, suffered to lie dormant, or become the power of producing mischief and misery in the world. The great General (so called) has sometimes become a cruel murderer, destroying without mercy, and almost without thought, the innocent and defenceless. The great poet (so called) has sometimes become a trifler, a madman, a corrupter of youth, diffusing everywhere moral pestilence,—error, vice, and wretchedness. The great statesman and politician (so called) has sometimes become a selfish demagogue, a cunning aspirant for power, and a cruel oppressor when in power. Yes, all talents however brilliant; all knowledge however extensive; all development of mental power however mighty, all acquisitions of science and learning however comprehensive, all natural sympathy, and even moral sensibility however exquisite; unsanctified by religious truth and uncontrolled by religious principle will forever fail to produce true greatness of character, or render any one truly a great man.

At a time when skepticism, shallow and superficial indeed, but depraved and malignant is breathing forth its pestilential vapor, and polluting by its unhallowed touch, everything divine and sac-

red; it is consoling to a devout mind to reflect, that the great and the wise, and the good of all ages; those superior geniuses whose splendid talents have elevated them almost above mortality, and placed them next in order to angelic natures; yes, it is consoling to a devout mind to reflect that while dwarfish infidelity lifts its deformed head and mocks these illustrious personages, though living in different ages, inhabiting different countries, nurtured in different schools, destined to different pursuits, and differing on various subjects, should all, as if touched with an impulse from heaven, agree to vindicate the sacredness of revelation, and present with one accord, their learning, their talents, their virtue on the gospel alter, as an offering to Emanuel.

This is not exaggeration. Who was it that, overleaping the narrow bounds which had hitherto been set to the human mind, ranged abroad through the immensity of space, discovered and illustrated those laws by which the Deity unites, binds, and governs all things? Who was it soaring into the sublime of astronomic science, numbered the stars of heaven, measured their spheres and called them by their names. It was NEWTON. But Newton was a Christian. Newton, great as he was, received instruction from the lips, and laid his honors at the feet of Jesus. Who was it that developed the hidden combination, the component parts of bodies; who was it that dissected the animal, examined the flowers, penetrated the earth and ranged the extent of organic natures. It was BOYLE, and BOYLE was a christian. And time would fail me to speak of HALE learned in the law, of Addison admired in the schools, of Milton, celebrated among the poets; and of Washington immortal in the field and in the cabinet. And few as men of greatness of character are—here and there—one in an age, like light houses scattered along the sea-coast to guide the bewildered mariner—our country has produced her full proportion—and to this catalogue of great men will now be added the name of ABRAHAM LINCOLN, a name which raises in the mind, the idea of whatever is great, whatever is noble, whatever is illustrious in human character. The man on whom nature seems, originally to have impressed the stamp of greatness, whose genius beamed from the retirement of humble life, with a radiance which dazzled and a loveliness which charmed the eye of sages. The counselor, who was once the pride of the bar, and the admiration of the court, whose apprehension was quick as lightning, and whose development of truth was luminous in its path; whose argument no change of circumstances could embarrass; whose knowledge appeared intuitive and who by a single glance, and

with as much facility as the eye of the eagle passes over the landscape, surveyed the whole field of controversy, saw in what way truth might be successfully defended, and how error must be approached. And who by a rapid and manly march led the listening Judge and the fascinated juror step by step, brightening as he advanced, till his argument rose to demonstration, and eloquence was rendered useless by conviction, whose talents were employed on the side of righteousness; whose voice whether in the council chamber, or at the bar of justice was virtue's consolation. At whose approach, oppressed humanity felt a secret rapture and the heart of injured innocence leaped for joy.

Where Abraham Lincoln was, in whatever sphere he moved, the friendless had a friend, the fatherless a father, and the poor man, though unable to reward his kindness, found an advocate. The truth may be fully spoken of Mr. Lincoln, and it will make his memory revered so long as the American nation shall stand. Born in obscure station, struggling with poverty and the disadvantages of a primitive country for a livelihood and education, suddenly raised, without experience in affairs of government, or any devotion to the science of government, to the Presidency, where he was at once forced into the direction of affairs in a great civil war, which strained the country's resources, heaped up alarming burdens, continually called for fresh levies for the slaughter of battle, and fresh taxes to supply the waste of war, and which magnified and multiplied the causes of popular dissatisfaction, he gained the affection and confidence of the people to an extent never equaled in this country since the administration of Washington. At a time when every disaster and burden of war put a weapon in the hands of the opposition, and in a country where every man gives voice and effect to the general discontent, he constantly gained popularity, and at a re-election, after four years of war, he almost annihilated the opposition party.

And now, in the hour of the nation's assured triumph, his death has cast the whole people into grief, and the opposition emulate his constant supporters in the emblems of mourning. All this shows that he possessed remarkable personal qualities, and while some deny greatness to him, these are fruits meet for greatness. His remarkable integrity has escaped suspicion in a most corrupt age. The temptations of extraordinary power did not excite in him any personal ambition above the welfare of his country. His disposition was not turned to cruelty or tyranny by the bloodiness of the time. Obliged to make his way privately through a slave state to

escape a plot for his assassination, on his way to the capitol to assume his office; rediculed and contemned for his precautions by those who desired his death, made the object of southern abuse, so foul and malignant, that it would have aroused implacable animosity in any man of ordinary human passions; in all the fierce conflict which has stirred up the direct propensities of human nature, he retained his moderation of temper, his self-command, sound judgment, rectitude of intention, and lenient disposition. He was murdered in the very lustre of and act of unexampled magnanimity and clemency, which dismissed the armed leaders of the rebellion to their homes, and showed the political conspirators that no vengeance from us would follow their crimes, or prevent their return to the Union; so good and kind, and tender, and merciful, an intercessor and judge, has the southern rebellion murdered in the very act of forgiveness. While the father was opening his arms to receive back this southern prodigal, he rushed upon him and smote him unto death, thereby driving all mercy from the hearts of men, and leaving henceforth stern justice and righteous vengeance their unmitigated sway. This good and great man has fallen a martyr to his country and to liberty, but not until he had lived through all its dangers and terrible trial. He was permitted to see the triumph of arms, and the bright dawn of peace at home, and the vindication and establishment of his country's dignity and power abroad. We behold him identified with all its danger and suffering. In its darkest hour of trial he never dispaired for his country. In the gloom of military failure he proclaimed that the contest should henceforth be carried on for the restoration of the nation upon the foundations of justice to all men, thereby striking a blow at the most powerful wrong that ever ruled a people. And the 22d day of September, 1862, bids fair to become as remarkable a date in the American history as the 4th of July, 1776; for on that day the President of the United States, availing himself of the full power of his position, declared this country free from that slaveholding oligarchy which had so long governed it in peace, and the influence of which had been so potently felt for more than a year after it had broken up the Union. President Lincoln has placed the American nation in a proper attitude, with respect to that institution, the existence of which had so long been the scandal and the disgrace of a people claiming to be the freest on earth, but whose powers had been systematically used, and ABUSED for the maintenance and extension of slave labor. Mr. Lincoln's course upon the slavery question has shown his love of freedom, his sagac-

ity and his wisdom. From the beginning he believed that the rebellion would dig the grave of slavery. He allowed the suicide of slavery to be consummated by slaveholders themselves. History will give him credit for acting with great and wise discretion. The calm, intelligent, philosophic abolitionists of the Old World, uninfluenced by the passions which surround and color our judgments, send across the ocean congratulation and admiration on the success and wisdom of his course. The three leading features of his administration on the subject of slavery are: 1. His proclamation of emancipation. 2. The employment of negroes as soldiers. 3. The amnesty proclamation which makes liberty the corner stone of reconstruction. The emancipation proclamation will live in history as one of the great events which measure the advance of the world. The historian will rank it along side with the acquisition of Magna Charta and the Declaration of Independence. This great state paper was issued after the most careful and anxious reflection, and concludes with these solemn words: "And upon this act, sincerely believed an act of justice, I invoke the considerate judgement of mankind and the gracious favor of Almighty God." And let us say, how fit a monument of human greatness, more enduring than the solid marble. God has favored it with a series of victories to our arms never witnesssed before its issue—a series of victories that will soon end the bloody strife, and restore to the Union and to the government every foot of territory cursed by secession and rebellion.

The *success* of Mr. Lincoln's administration can be measured only by the difficulties he has overcome. No ruler ever entered upon his office with more to dishearten and embarrass. The Departments of State at Washington were filled with traitors; every day they were resigning their posts, and going South to join the rebels. It was impossible to tell who were loyal and who were not. Few clerks comparatively were free from suspicion. Thus President Lincoln found an empty treasury, empty arsenals, and a scattered navy, and treasonable servants. On assuming the duties of his office he could scarcely command men and means sufficien for the defence of the Capitol. The credit of the government also had been impaired; and how to raise money to carry on the war was indeed a perplexing question to be answered. Nor was the most dangerous foe in his front. In his rear at the North, were thousands of misguided partisans whose sympathies were with the South. The rebels, too, had seized many of the forts and arsenals, together with custom-houses and other public buildings,

and unfurled the flag of secession on almost every foot of slave territory. England and France were conniving with the South and complicating our national affairs by their ungenerous and inconsistent acts. At a time when they ought to have given their unfeigned friendship for our endangered Government, they basely lent their influence to the South, in order to hasten the overthrow of this rival nation. Never did such a task devolve upon a ruler before; and how well he has succeeded, let the hopeful condition of our cause at this time furnish an appropriate answer. And for this, the country is more indebted to Mr. Lincoln whose hope and courage, sagacity and prudence, honesty and mental ability, have conducted the campaign, than to any other man. This is the highest proof of his statesmanship. We believe it will be the verdict of history that Mr. Lincoln was raised up, educated, led to his post, on purpose to conduct the nation through this remarkable passage of her history God endowed him, above all others, with that combination of qualities which fitted him to hold the helm of the ship of State, amid the strifes of party and the storms of war. These pre-eminent excellencies will embalm his memory, and perpetuate his fame, to the last generation.

I cannot close these remarks without saying that Abraham Lincoln was a Christian; and a Christian—as has been beautifully said —is the "highest style of man." What were his particular views on many controverted points in Theology we know not. He did not intrude them on the public. Yet he was a close student of the Bible, and a man of prayer, and to a friend in conversation prophesied his love for Jesus the Saviour of man, remarking, 'when I came here I was not a Christian, when I buried our dear Willie, I was not a Christian, but when I stood upon the battle-field of Gettysburg I consecrated myself to Jesus Christ, and now I do know I love Jesus.' We may hope that having finished his work of unparalleled toil, difficulty, anxiety, and weariness, God, for Christ's sake, has kindly admitted him to eternal rest. Like Moses, the great emancipator of ancient Isreal, he saw the fair land of promise spread out before his people, and then died full of honors mourned by the nation and forever enthroned in the hearts of his countrymen.

Abraham Lincoln—true friend of the people—of the poor, of the slave—so faithful, true, just, kind, forgiving—man greatly beloved, farewell! Farewell till God grants us all a meeting in eternity.

A silver plate upon the coffin over the breast, bears the following inscription:

"Abraham Lincoln, Sixteenth President of the United States, Born February 12th, 1809, Died April 15, 1865.

LESSONS TAUGHT BY THE OCCURRENCE.

1. That wise and patriotic rulers are among the greatest blessings that God can give to a people. The least acquaintance with history will teach us that a nation may possess unbounded material resources and yet fall a prey to its enemies for the want of great and patriotic men to preside in its councils and lead its armies. What would our vast war materials, our great armies have availed us, if Providence had not raised up the leaders who had the capacity and the heart to use the materials and men for the salvation of the government. The great leaders, civil and military, who under God have guided our affairs in these trying years of warfare, have been the strength and glory of our country, and they deserve the lasting gratitude of the nation. The untimely removal of such men may well awaken the anxieties of the people. It has been justly said that while the celebrated Pitt guided the national councils of Britain, success crowned all her enterprises, but as soon as he ceased to breathe and to speak, her councils were disturbed and she suffered a loss which will never be repaired.

2. THE MADNESS AND ATROCITY OF THE ASSASSINATION.

Treason is dreadfully malignant. The assassination was deliberate, cowardly, cruel. So has been the wholesale murders of this rebellion. Deliberately these men plotted treason thirty years ago. They taught that the nation was not sovereign, but the state was sovereign; this always meant treason, and treason means bloodshed and murder. Cowardly they began, stealing our arms; by firing on our little starving band who garrisoned Fort Sumter. Cruelly they massacred blacks, because they were armed and afterwards armed them themselves. This is no development of any new trait in southern character. When was there a time when the assassination of a man opposed to the political denomination of the slaveholders was not held by the South to be meritorious. A tall and costly monument, in South Carolina, marks the honors bestowed upon one of its sons for an unprovoked and dastardly attack upon the noble Sumner, and came near a fatal issue as the recent attempt on the honored Secretary of State. Such are the acts the South delights to honor. Assassination was free-

ly talked of in the South as the remedy for the election of Mr. Lincoln. No southern organ was shocked at the plot to kill him on his way to Washington. Rulers have been assassinated ere now, and other attempts have been made, but it was when hereditary power was above popular control, or military leaders seized the liberties of the people, and when at least a charge of tyranny, or dangerous ambition could be made. But when before was the elect of the people assassinated for holding office according to their will? Or a ruler who had just submitted all power to the judgment and supremacy of the people? It is like assassinating a whole nation, for he is but their agent, newly approved and commissioned.

It is, simply, the murder of republican institutions. This office he held, subject to the will of the people. And in his personal character, Mr. Lincoln, of all the men in the world, had least of a tyrant. Passionless under the most venomous and foul abuse of the insurgents; undisturbed by the sharp criticism of his friends; ignoring all enmities; unprovoked to vengeance by all the crimes of rebellion; boundless in mercy and magnanimity. These are not the qualities of which tyrants are made. The assassin, if he escape, will bear the mark of Cain upon his brow wherever he may go throughout the world, and his name will go down to eternal infamy. It would indeed be strange if the assassin of the President has not yet thought of the memorable words which Macbeth uttered concerning the king, and made them fit the present homicide, by substituting the name thus:

> "Besides this Lincoln
> Hath borne his faculties so meek, hath been
> So clear in his great office, that his virtues
> Will plead like angels, trumpet tongued against
> The deep damnation of his taking off."

And it would be equally strange if the dying President could have uttered a prayer after that fatal wound had been received, would not have said, "Father forgive them, they know not what they do."

3. This calamity which has stunned the nation by it suddenness and severity, is intended to be a solemn summons to a devout recognition of Jehovah as the supreme ruler among the nations. He commands that we shall trust and worship him alone. "The Lord reigneth, let the people tremble. He sitteth between the cherubim, let the earth be moved."

An anthem was sung by the choir at the conclusion of Rev. Mr. Mather's discourse, as follows:

Unveil thy bosom, faithful tomb,
Take this new treasure to thy trust,
And give these sacred relics room
To slumber in the silent dust.

Nor pain, nor grief, nor anxious fear,
Invade thy bounds, no mortal woes
Can reach the peaceful sleeper here,
While angels watch the soft repose.

So Jesus slept; God's dying Son
Passed thro' the grave, and blest the bed,
Rest here, blest saint, till from His throne,
Till morning break, and pierce the shade.

Break from His throne, illustrious morn!
Attend, O earth, His sovereign word;
Restore thy trust, a glorious form
Shall then arise to meet the Lord.

After the benediction was pronounced by Rev. A. Kingsbury, of the Presbyterian Church of Putnam, the whole concluded with the doxology, which was sung by the whole assembly:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

We all then quietly dispersed to our homes with hearts filled with gratitude to God for having so firmly fixed the foundations of our government in the hearts of the people, that this sudden snatching away by the hands of an assassin, of our chosen leader, instead of sowing amongst us discord and distrust, as our enemies fondly hoped, has drawn us more closely together and caused us, without distinction of party, creed or color, to renew, over the dead body of our murdered President, our fealty to our country and to the cause of true liberty.

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